



1906.
TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF OLD FLETTON.
In the Administrative County of Huntingdon.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health,
For the Year ending December 31st, 1906,
Presented to a Meeting of the Council, held on Monday, the 11th day of March, 1907.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,
I have now the honour and pleasure of submitting to you my first Annual Report, for 1906.

Estimating the population of your District to be 5000, we arrive at the following data as to the Birth rate and Death rate per 1000.

Births.—During the year, the number of births registered in your District was 160, including six male and three female illegitimates.

Of these 77 were born in Fletton
40 „ „ Stanground
43 „ „ Woodstone.

This shows a Birth Rate of 32 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Deaths.—During the year the total number of Deaths was 57, showing a Death Rate of 11·4 per thousand.

Infantile Mortality.—Under the age of one year 23 children died. This is equal to 143·7 for 1000 Births.

Under the age of five years there were 26 Deaths. The causes of Death under five years were as follows :

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Premature Birth | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Enteritis | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Diarrhœa | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Other Septic Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Other Causes | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | 26 |

Deducting the number who died of Premature Birth we find a very low Infantile Death Rate.

Notifiable Diseases—The total number of Notifiable Diseases was 40, and were as follows :

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | 22 |
| Enteric Fever | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | | | | <hr/> |
| | | | | 40 |

Localities of Outbreak were

| | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Fletton | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Woodstone | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Stanground | ... | ... | ... | 15 |

The total number in your District last year was 62—a reduction of 22.

Ages at Death :

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| Deaths under one year | ... | ... | 23 |
| From 1 to 5 years | ... | ... | 3 |
| „ 5 „ 15 „ | ... | ... | 1 |
| „ 15 „ 25 „ | ... | ... | 0 |
| „ 25 „ 65 „ | ... | ... | 16 |
| „ 65 upwards | ... | ... | 14 |
| Total | | | <u>57</u> |

Localities.—Parishes in which the deaths occurred :

| | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| Fletton | ... | ... | 18 |
| Stanground | ... | ... | 25 |
| Woodstone | ... | ... | 14 |
| Total | | | <u>57</u> |

The causes of Death generally were

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Influenza | ... | ... | ... | 1 | Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Diarrhoea | ... | ... | ... | 2 | Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Enteritis | ... | ... | ... | 4 | Heart Disease | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Puerperal Fever | ... | ... | ... | 1 | Premature Birth | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Septic Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 3 | Senile Decay | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Phthisis | ... | ... | ... | 2 | Other causes | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 2 | | | | | |
| Cancer | ... | ... | ... | 6 | Total | | | | |
| | | | | | <u>57</u> | | | | |

Means of Prevention of Infectious Diseases.—The houses where infectious disease has broken out are disinfected by your Sanitary Inspector before patients are permitted to return to school, or to their ordinary employment.

As far as possible the patients are isolated from the other members of the family or occupants of the house, until the legal time has expired. This applies to all cases of notifiable diseases, and to other cases of infectious disease that may be brought to notice, such as Measles, Whooping Cough, &c.

During the exceptionally cold weather experienced about the end of December, there were so many cases of infectious disease in Stanground that it was deemed prudent to extend the Christmas holidays from a week to a fortnight. This had the approval of your Chairman and other Councillors, and the sanction of the Managers of the Schools as well as the Teachers.

There is still a considerable amount of sickness in Stanground, but there is reason to believe the extended holiday had a favourable influence on the health of the parish.

It is pleasing to mention that the Teachers in your District have kindly promised assistance in bringing cases of suspected infectious disease to notice.

The public generally are gradually realizing that health and happiness can best be brought about and maintained by plain food, pure water, fresh air and suitable clothing. Well-nourished and well-clad people have more power of resisting disease than those under-fed and badly-clad.

Water Supply.—This may be regarded as quite satisfactory.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—This very important matter is properly attended to throughout the District. There are still, however, a few “black spots” where sanitary measures would be an advantage. These spots are known to the majority of your members, and will no doubt be attended to when convenient.

The contrast between the present condition and that of ten years ago is, in my opinion, very decidedly satisfactory, and must be highly gratifying to everyone who has any regard for the health and comfort of his fellows.

Prevention —This being the first year of your Council I think it proper that your attention should be called to a circular issued in 1902, by the Hunts. County Council, regarding prevention of Consumption. In this circular the Council advise that all discharges from consumptive persons should be disinfected or destroyed. Patients who are able to be out of doors are requested to keep a small spittoon to spit in, instead of spitting on a footpath. Patients confined to the house should avoid expectorating on the floor, and to take general care not to permit the sputum to become dry, and thus mix with the dust of the room.

As a precautionary measure, I would strongly urge that all discharges from cancerous patients should be burnt, or destroyed in some other way.

Removal of Refuse.—The report of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Whittaker, will doubtless show that this is attended to in his usual timely and effective way.

The Streets generally have been well attended to, and all have been more or less improved.

Victoria Place and St. Margaret's Place, St. Margaret's Rd., have been well dressed with gravel, but that part of the road from Love Lane to Sturton's Row is still in a deplorable condition. It is very pleasing to state however, that this Road is having the serious attention of your Board, and will soon be put in a more tolerable condition.

Orton Avenue and Belsize Avenue are now in a more satisfactory condition, and considerable improvements have been accomplished in other parts of Old Fletton.

Pollution of Streams.—Contrasting the condition of the two streams which flow through your District at present time, with their filthy state about ten years ago, we find a very marked improvement.

The Love Lane Lode no longer is denounced as a public danger of high degree. Now there are no complaints, although in the "dog days" the emanations are not of the sweetest.

Then the Stanground Lode, at one time described as an extended cesspool, may now lay claim to be a stream of some respectability. During the past year this brook has been much improved near the bridge, and this improvement is likely to exercise a favourable influence over the health of the inmates of Brookdale cottages.

House Sanitation.—Considering the nature of employment of the majority of the workmen, there is much to be said in favour of the wives and housekeepers. The tendency is distinctly towards betterness. The principles of Hygiene are gradually being introduced and are showing themselves more and more as the years roll on.

Cleanliness goes hand-in-hand with tidiness, and not only do we find this in the houses, but it is strikingly evident in the children. There has, indeed, been a revolution in this respect during the last decade. Let anyone who doubts this statement observe the hundreds of healthy and happy, clean and tidy, laughing lads and lasses as they go to and come from school.

There is room for improvement in the disposal of excreta, the pail and cesspool should give way to water closets, or the dry earth pans.

Factories &c.—There is only one Mill in your District, and it is an ornament, as well as a boon and blessing, to the locality.

I have every reason to believe that this great establishment is conducted on sound business principles, and at the same time with a view to the health, comfort, and general welfare of the workers.

Homework is discouraged and, as stated by the Head of the firm, is given to a few only (about 20), and mostly in the way of charity.

A list of the outworkers is kept, and the names with addresses sent to the Council twice yearly.

Bakehouses.—These were visited and found clean. Improvements, however, are desirable in a few and are promised.

The Council may be congratulated on the considerable amount of improvement in the District generally, in the first year of its existence. The roads and footpaths are better everywhere. Several streets have been named and the houses numbered. New lamps have been placed where required &c., &c., all tending in the one direction of progress.

It is pleasing to conclude by stating that the health of your District at present is in a fairly satisfactory condition.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN A. ROBERTSON, M.D.

1906.

The URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
of OLD FLETTON.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
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